

sac, in the manner which is described by Gelesnow*; and the figures to his own memoirs do not always show the depression of the summit of the embryo-sac, but exactly resemble the condition which is figured by Müller from *Monotropa* and *Begonia*, where the pollen-tube is applied upon the apex of the embryo-sac and lies in a line with the embryo. Here his statement, that he has drawn out the pollen-tube from the embryo-sac, with the embryo at its extremity, must be set against Hofmeister's affirmation that he has detached the pollen-tube from the apex of the embryo-sac without disturbing the germinal vesicle.

Finally, the whole question now appears to be narrowed to the determination of the point, whether the germinal vesicle does actually exist before impregnation, since if that can be proved, all appearances yet observed may be reconciled, by allowing for very slight errors in interpreting and delineating them. Amici does not express himself very distinctly on this point, but the other three papers which have just been investigated, added to the opinions of Brongniart† and Mirbel‡, will probably satisfy many upon this point.

P.S.—Since the above was written I have found that L. R. Tulasne§ has given a brief *résumé* of some researches into the embryogeny of *Veronica hederifolia*, *triphyllos* and *præcox*. According to his statements, the pollen-tube here actually perforates the embryo-sac and lies within it; the end of the pollen-tube becomes the embryo and at no period can any *germinal vesicle* be distinguished. These observations therefore go to support the modified views of Schleiden, but until they are more distinctly detailed by their author, their true value can hardly be estimated.

VI.—*Additions to the Fauna of Ireland* ||. By WILLIAM THOMPSON, Esq., Pres. Nat. Hist. and Phil. Society of Belfast.

AVES.

Bridled Guillemot, *Uria leucophthalmos*, Faber.

— *lacrymans*, Valenc., Gould, Yarrell.

A communication from Richard Chute, Esq., of Blennerville, county of Kerry, dated Feb. 26, 1846, informed me of his having once shot this bird at Dingle.

* Botanisch. Zeitung, i. 841.

† Mem. sur la génération de l'embryon, &c., Paris, 1827.

‡ Ann. des Sc. Nat. 2^e sér. xi. 200 and 381.

§ Comptes Rendus, June 14, 1847.

|| This short communication was intended to be supplementary to two papers on the same subject in the 20th volume, but was too late in being forwarded for that purpose.

PISCES.

"*Syngnathus ophidion*, Linn.," Yarr. Brit. Fish. v. ii. 447, 2nd edit

A specimen taken in the dredge with oysters, at Killinchy, Strangford lough, in October last, happened fortunately to be brought with them to Belfast market, where I procured it. Its length is eleven inches; the characters all as described by Yarrell. After being preserved in spirits for some weeks its colours are a mixture of very pale bluish and brownish olive, with a fine black interrupted or non-continuous line along the back from the head to the dorsal fin:—whitish spots along the medial line.

MOLLUSCA.

Idalia aspersa, Ald. & Hanc. Brit. Nudib. Moll. part 1. pl. 26.

One of this species, hitherto only known from a single individual procured on the coast of Northumberland by the authors referred to, was dredged in about seven fathoms water off Bray Head (county of Wicklow) last July by Mr. R. Ball. When living it is said to have been somewhat of a dull rosy hue. The specimen is now (probably being contracted in spirits) five lines in length: it was submitted to Mr. Alder's inspection.

Tellina pygmæa, Phil. MS.; Lovèn, Index Moll. Scandinaviæ, p. 42 (1846).

Specimens procured on the coast of Cork by Mr. John D. Humphreys are—as Mr. S. Hanley informs me—in Mr. Jeffreys's collection at Swansea.

Ascidia tubularis, Müll. Zool. Dan. iv. p. 12. t. 130. f. 3.

One of this species, about twice the size of that represented in the 'Zoologia Danica,' was dredged from pure sand at about six fathoms depth in Ballyhome bay, co. Down, in July 1846 (Mr. Hyndman & W. T.). Professor E. Forbes, to whom the species was previously known, says that it is common in the Hebrides.

Ascidia grossularia, Van Beneden, Recher. Ascid. Simples, pl. 4. f. 7.

This species, defined as having the "test corné, presque lisse, de couleur rouge," and being always known by its bright red colour, of which the vitellus also is, was found in abundance on oysters at Britlingsee by its describer. What I consider to be the same species is likewise abundant on shells, stones, and occasionally on *Laminariæ*, dredged from a few fathoms depth on the north-east coast of Ireland. It seems to me identical with what is represented in the 'Zoologia Danica,' vol. i. p. 15. t. 15. f. 3, as the *young* state of *Asc. rustica* (previously noticed by me in the 'Annals,' vol. v. p. 94). No allusion however is made by Van Beneden to the *A. grossularia* resembling any other *Ascidia*: but I agree with him in considering it a perfectly

developed species, and consequently am of opinion that what Müller considered its adult state is another species.

Amaroucium albicans, Edw. Ascid. Comp. p. 71. pl. 1, 3 b.

Dredged from several fathoms in Belfast bay (1839) and on the Galway coast (1840), W. T.

Mr. McCalla mentioned to me last spring that he had collected this species on the Irish coast.

Didemnum gelatinosum, Edw. Ascid. Comp. p. 79. pl. 7. f. 5 ?

Adherent to *Serpula tubularia* dredged in Strangford lough, Oct. 1839, &c., W. T.

A species apparently of this genus may not uncommonly be found investing the stems of *Halidrys siliquosa*. It is of a pale gray colour, and may be said to give the plant the appearance of being besmeared with bird-lime.

Botryllus violaceus, Edw. Ascid. Comp. p. 89. pl. 6. f. 4.

On Fuci, Belfast bay, W. T.

Botryllus smaragdus, Edw. Ascid. Comp. p. 91. pl. 6. f. 6 ?

A species taken at Holywood, Belfast bay, by Dr. J. L. Drummond, in the summer of 1846, of which he made a drawing and noted the colour, seems to be the *B. smaragdus*. The notes are not in sufficient detail to ensure certainty.

The last four have not, that I am aware, been made known as British species:—the *genus* *Didemnum* indeed seems unnoticed. Dr. Scouler has met with it on the Irish coast.

CRUSTACEA.

Crangon fasciatus, Risso, Hist. Nat. de l'Eur. Mérid. v. 64; Edw. Hist. Crust. iii. 342.

Among Crustacea lately submitted to my examination by Mr. R. Ball are two individuals of this species, which were taken by him at Bray in July last. They are nearly one inch in length, and exhibit masses of mature ova. The species is admirably characterized in Milne-Edwards' description above referred to. Its short thick *form* at once arrested my attention as distinct from that of *C. vulgaris*:—the *colour* designated by the trivial name *fasciatus* does not so distinguish it. One specimen exhibits a blackish band on the fourth segment of the abdomen and the other none; and the greater number of specimens of *C. vulgaris* from various parts of the Irish coast examined in reference to this character have more or less of a blackish band on this segment. It is slightly shown too in Sowerby's figure on Leach's Malacost. Podophth. Brit. This species has not been noticed as British, but has I believe been lately obtained by Professor Bell.

Praniza cærulata, Mont. (sp.) ?

A letter from A. H. Haliday, Esq., dated October 9, 1847, conveyed the following information:—"I found a species of *Praniza* pretty common on the clayey shores of Strangford lough last week, in company with *Anceus maxillaris*. They were in small cavities on the surface of the clay under stones, sometimes singly, oftener two, or even three and four in each hole; the smaller slender green ones were few in comparison. You will find some of the new-born young with them, having all the characteristic form of the parent, but the posterior thoracic segments not so completely confounded together. I have given but a hasty look at them, but have not recognized ♂ among the adults."

Along with the Crustacea since received from Mr. Ball were sent specimens of a *Praniza*, purchased of Mr. McCalla as collected on the Irish coast, but no locality is given. They were obtained previous to those first noticed.

Bopyrus hippolytes, Kroyer, Gronl. Amphip. p. 78. pl. 4. f. 22.

Two females of this species were found within the carapace of the *Hippolyte varians*, Leach, which I obtained on the coast of Galway in July 1840. M. Kroyer found it on the *Hippolyte polaris*.

Sida crystallina, Müll. (sp.) Edw. Crust. iii. 385.

Daphnia crystallina, Müll. Entomost.

Professor Allman lately sent me sketches of a *Daphnia* obtained by him during autumn in a little subalpine lake near Killarney, where it was in profusion adhering to the under sides of the leaves of the water-lily (*Nymphæa alba*). On the sketches being transmitted to Dr. Baird of the British Museum, he at once recognized in them the *D. crystallina*, Müll. (*Sida*, Straus), adding that he had met with the species but in two localities—near London—and in both sparingly.

ZOOPHYTA.

Hippothoa sica, Couch, Cornish Fauna, part 3. p. 102. pl. 19. f. 8; Johnst. Brit. Zooph. p. 292, 2nd edit.,

I find within a very large dead *Pinna* dredged at the entrance of Belfast bay. Mr. Couch's description, but not his figure, is applicable to my specimen. The striking characters may be noticed. The length of the cells is as described, "about four times their transverse diameter," and the apertures "are long and tubular, frequently as long as the cell." But whether this remarkable form may not be due to the security and freedom from injury enjoyed by the zoophyte within the closed valves of the *Pinna*, I shall not, from the examination of a single specimen, pretend to determine. Mr. Couch's specimens were however procured "on stones, from deep water, common." But for this character (which probably may not be permanent) I should not enumerate my *Hippothoa* as distinct from *H. divaricata*, which too is described by Dr. Johnston as sometimes having the apertures "shortly tubular."